REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-22 and 25-26 remain pending. Claims 1, 5, and 17 have been amended. Support for the amendment is believed to be found at at least page 20, line 16 through page 21, line 2 and page 21, lines 3-6 of the instant specification.

Claims 1-5, 7-20, 22, and 25-26 are patentable over Porter (US 6,434,599) in view of Grimm et al. (US 5,828,843)

The rejection of claims 1-5, 7-20, 22, and 25-26 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Porter in view of Grimm is hereby traversed. For at least three reasons, claim 1 is patentable over Porter in view of Grimm and the rejection is respectfully requested to be withdrawn.

First, as admitted by the Patent and Trademark Office (PTO) in the most recent Official Action, Porter fails to disclose identifying (or selecting as in amended claim 1) by the service system an appropriate session for the communication requested based on comparing session information of one or more of the current communication sessions with information associated with the communication request. The asserted combination of Porter with Grimm fails to cure the admitted deficiency of Porter.

Grimm, as recited by the PTO, appears to allow users to join a match offer without performing any selection of the users. That is, Grimm appears to disclose a user determining whether or not to join a match offer and not the matchmaker system. See, e.g., "Other users will browse these match offers, examine their attributes, select an offer that they find acceptable and attempt to join that offer." Grimm at column 4,

lines 15-18. Thus, Grimm fails to disclose the claimed subject matter of claim 1 and for at least this reason, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Second, Grimm fails to disclose selection of an appropriate session. Grimm appears to describe matching between match offers of users and not sessions. Matched sets and/or match offers are not a pool of current communication sessions. The Grimm matchmaker appears to provide a brokering functionality for connecting users to a game at a game server. Thus, Grimm fails to disclose selecting from a pool of current communication sessions as claimed because the relied upon matchmaker fails to select from the sessions. For at least this reason, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Third, Grimm fails to disclose selection of a specific party and associated endpoint system to join the session selected or created in the preceding step. The PTO has previously admitted that in *Porter* the users receiving chat invitations decide whether to join a chat session. See the FOA mailed July 27, 2005 at page 9, section 5.(a) "other users decide whether to consent to a chat session" and page 10, section 5.(b) "users decide whether they would like to consent to chat with the initiating user." In the *Porter* system, it appears that the existing chat participants, through acceptance or rejection of a new visitor, determine the chat session to which the new visitor is joined and which parties are in the session with the new visitor. *Porter* fails to disclose a service system selecting an appropriate session for the communication requested as claimed in the present claimed subject matter. For at least this reason, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

For each of the foregoing reasons, claim 1 is patentable over Porter in view of

Grimm and the rejection is respectfully requested to be withdrawn.

Claims 2-5, 7-16, 22, and 25 depend, either directly or indirectly, from claim 1, include further limitations, and are patentable over Porter in view of Grimm for at least the reasons advanced above with respect to claim 1. The rejection of claims 2-5, 7-16, 22, and 25 should be withdrawn.

Claim 17 is patentable over Porter in view of Grimm for at least reasons similar to those advanced above with respect to claim 1 and the rejection is respectfully requested to be withdrawn.

Claims 18-20 and 26 depend, either directly or indirectly, from claim 17, include further limitations, and are patentable over Porter in view of Grimm for at least the reasons advanced above with respect to claim 17. The rejection of claims 18-20 and 26 should be withdrawn.

Claims 6 and 21 are patentable over Porter in view of Grimm and further in view of Cave (US 5,958,014)

The rejection of claims 6 and 21 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Porter in view of Grimm and Cave is hereby traversed. Claims 6 and 21 are patentable over Porter in view of Grimm and Cave for at least their dependence on claims 1 and 17. Cave fails to cure the above-noted deficiencies of Porter and Grimm. For at least this reason, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Early issuance of a Notice of Allowance is courteously solicited.

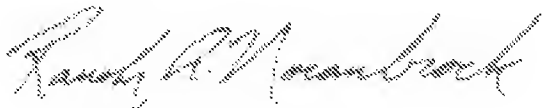
The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned, Applicant's attorney of record, to facilitate advancement of the present application.

All objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application should be in condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 08-2025 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

Lawrence WILCOCK et al.



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